REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 12, 22, and 29-37 were previously canceled.

Claims 3-6, 13, 16, 17, 20, 21, 38 and 39 were withdrawn from consideration. In order to expedite allowance, Applicants now cancel these non-elected claims.

Thus, claims 1-11, 13-21, 23-28, 38 and 39 remain pending in the application.

Claims 1 and 8 are amended to clarify that the wave peaks of the wave shape are presented on the outer surface of the transport pipe, i.e., visible, as disclosed in paragraph [0018] of the specification and as shown in Figs. 1-3.

Election/Restriction

. With respect to claims 20 and 21, the Examiner maintains that these claims should be withdrawn.

While Applicants maintain that the subject matter of claims 20 and 21 is properly within the scope of the elected invention, in an effort to expedite allowance, Applicants cancel these claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oldham (FR 2197140) in view of Blin.

Claims 8-11, 18, 19, and 23-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Montaron (EP 266810) in view of Blin.

Claims 8-11, 18, 19, and 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klein (DE 1932448) in view of Blin.

Claims 1, 2, 7-11, 14, 15, 18, 19, and 23-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McLarty in view of Blin.

According to the Examiner, the subject matter of the independent claims 1 and 8 is obvious in view of a combination of Blin et al, with other documents cited in the office action.

Blin is cited for disclosing the recited pipe comprising a multilayered tube structure 5 provided with a ring sleeve 2 having sequential wave peaks 10 and a decreased radial height wave peak near 20a going towards the free end of the ring sleeve.

However, Blin et al. does not disclose that the wave peaks of the wave shape are arranged on an ***outer surface*** of the transport pipe.

Blin et al. refers to a coupler for a textile reinforced rubber hose. According to Blin et al. the hose is arranged between a metal end-fitting and a metal bush. The metal end-fitting and the bush are formed with a series of successive teeth. The hose is fastened by the teeth so that the coupler has a better mechanical resistance to pressure surges.

In contrast, the transport pipe according to claims 1 and 8 comprises wave peaks at an outer surface of the transport pipe. Hereby, an optimal form fitting between the ring sleeve and an outside line reinforcement jacket is provided so that even with high axial stresses or loads no longitudinal enlarging of the transport pipe is to be feared. There is no hint in Blin et al. or the other prior art documents to provide this feature.

As explained in paragraph [0018] of the specification:

> In the exemplary embodiment illustrated in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 ... The wound carbon fiber line is form-locking and form-fittingly joined with the wave shaped outer surface **34** of the ring sleeve **18**. On its free end **36** away from the collar **16** the ring sleeve terminates tapered, so that a shallow transition is enabled for the wound reinforcing jacket **14** (see Fig. 3). Further, the outer wave contour **38** of the ring sleeve **18** becomes more shallow going towards its free end. The sequentially following wave peaks **38** of the wave contour **38** exhibit a decreasing radial height going towards the free end of the ring sleeve **18**. Directly at the collar **16** there is joined or connected a sharp-edged radial returning wave valley **40**, to which are joined, going to the free end **36** of the ring sleeve, two wave peaks **38** separated from each other by a further wave valley **42**. Therefrom there results an optimal form fitting between ring sleeve **18** and outside lying reinforcing jacket **14**, so that even with high axial stresses or loads no longitudinal enlargening of the transport pipe is to be feared.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and early issuance of the notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

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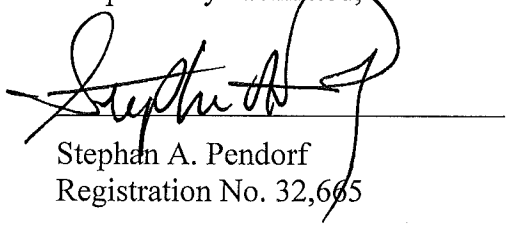
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 16-0877.

Should further issues remain prior to allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,



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